

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of treating postoperative pain in a patient in need of such
2 treatment, which method comprises administering to said patient a buprenorphine-containing
3 transdermal dosage form prior to surgery.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the buprenorphine-containing
2 transdermal dosage form is applied 12-96 hours prior to surgery.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the administration of a
2 second buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a second dosing period post-
3 operatively, wherein said second dosage form comprises the same dosage of buprenorphine
4 as, or a greater dosage of buprenorphine than, said first dosage form.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising extended subsequent dosing
2 periods with subsequent dosage forms for a given time period as needed by the patient to
3 achieve desired analgesia.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a rapid
2 dose escalation of buprenorphine patches to achieve the desired preoperative dosage level,
3 wherein the method involves:

4 (a) administering to the patient a first buprenorphine-containing
5 transdermal dosage form for a first dosing period that is no longer than 5 days;

6 (b) administering to the patient a second buprenorphine-containing
7 transdermal dosage form for a second dosing period that is no longer than 5 days, wherein the
8 second dosage form comprises the same dosage of buprenorphine as, or a greater dosage of
9 buprenorphine than, the first dosage form; and

10 (c) administering to the patient a third buprenorphine-containing
11 transdermal dosage form for a third dosing period, wherein the third dosage form comprises a
12 greater dosage of buprenorphine than the second dosage form, and the third dosage form is
13 the desired dosage level for the postoperative pain control.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is initiated 4-10 days prior
2 to surgery.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said dosage form comprises at least 5
2 mg of buprenorphine.
- 1 8. The method of claim 3, wherein said second dosage form comprises 10
2 mg of buprenorphine.
- 1 9. The method of claim 3, wherein said second dosage form comprises 20
2 mg of buprenorphine.
- 1 10. The method of claim 3, wherein said second dosage form comprises 30
2 mg of buprenorphine.
- 1 11. The method of claim 3, wherein said second dosage form comprises 40
2 mg of buprenorphine.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said surgery is a simple surgery.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said simple surgery is arthroscopic
2 surgery.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said simple surgery is an excision of
2 a mass.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein said simple surgery is hernia repair.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the surgery is spinal fusion.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the surgery is intrathoracic surgery.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the intrathoracic surgery is
2 coarctation repair.
- 1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the surgery is pelvic surgery.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the surgery is transabdominal
2 hysterectomy.

1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein said transdermal administration is
2 produced by a transdermal system selected from the group consisting of a topical gel, a
3 lotion, an ointment, a transmucosal system, a transmucosal device, and an iontophoretic
4 delivery system.